

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 62151-52917

Title: PERIOD OF DUTY FOR CONTINGENCY OPERATION AUGMENTEES

Operation/Exercise Name: PROVIDE COMFORT

Observed: 06 Apr 1991

Originator: HQ FMFEUR DESIG

POC: CAPT MCCOWN Commercial: (081)868-3119 DSN: 2353402

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Marines arrived to augment the Provide Comfort liaison cell expecting to stay 30-60 days, even though orders had been written for 120 days. Hardships and misunderstandings arose when Marines were required to remain for 120 days.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

The augmentees for Provide Comfort expected to be deployed 30-60 days. Commands tasked to send personnel sent top quality Marines. However, in many cases, they were personnel in a "dead zone area", i.e. pending Permanent Change of Station (PCS), school, awaiting a command/billet, etc. Other Marines had major events scheduled with their friends or families outside the 60 day window. Examples are weddings, graduations, vacations where money had been committed, etc. Additionally, some commands expected to "suck it up" for the loss of an individual for 60 days. This created a problem when the personnel were required to remain in Turkey 120 days. Either the personnel and commands had to adjust their plans, or the continuity of the liaison cell suffered.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

If a command knows the length of a commitment of personnel before they are fielded to a liaison cell, the command could make assignments accordingly.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

As a routine Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), personnel augmentees should deploy with orders for a minimum of 120 days, with an understood maximum of 180 days from the beginning of an operation. The augmentees can be sent back to their parent commands before the 180 day limit if they are not required for the duration of the operation.

9. (U) COMMENTS:
NONE.

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